

MDJ ONLINE: Dollar Wise owner honored as West Cobb Citizen of the Year

by Philip Clements

December 15, 2014



Mark Zangari accepts the West Cobb Citizen of the Year award Wednesday at the Marietta Country Club. Staff-Justin Larson

WEST COBB — Mark Zangari of Powder Springs was recently named the West Cobb Citizen of the Year by the Cobb Chamber's Northwest Area Council.

"It feels absolutely great," said Zangari, 51, a single father of five. "I'm very involved in the west Cobb community. To be selected among my peers for this award is a great feeling."

Zangari is the owner of Dollar Wise Cartridge, an independent retailer of inkjet and laser toner cartridges, and, true to Citizen of the Year form, has been engaged in many endeavors across the county, with special attention to the business community.

He is the 2014 president of the Marietta Business Association, immediate past-president of the West Cobb Business Association, executive director of membership for the Acworth Business Association, and director and special events chair for the South Cobb Business Association.

He said he has also served on the board of several nonprofit organizations this year, including the Georgia Ballet and Center for Family Resources.

Ron Sumpter, the 2014 vice chair of the Northwest Area Council — who will also be the 2015 chair — said Zangari does an outstanding job as a community leader.

"His involvement in the community is superb," Sumpter said. "I see him around quite a bit; not just the northwest area but all over Cobb County. He gives back a lot. He promotes Cobb County over all, whether it's from an education standpoint, whether it's a good interaction between businesspeople or it's helping to improve the west Cobb community. (There are) so many things that (Zangari) has done."

Zangari, who can be seen around town driving his 1990 Buick LeSabre, said living in west Cobb makes it easy to want to be involved in the

community.

"What's beautiful about it is you have all the parks, recreation, lots of open space here," he said. "That's been preserved without sacrificing any other needs."

He pointed to the absence of the traffic issues elsewhere in the county and said west Cobb allows citizens the convenience of travel.

"We get where we need to get, whether it be Atlanta or the north Georgia mountains," he said.

He also cited safety and education as other reasons he is proud to be a west Cobb resident.

"Safety here in west Cobb is second to none," he said. "The schools are all top-rated, too."

Sumpter said it doesn't matter what a person does in west Cobb, chances are they have crossed paths with Zangari.

"You can ask anybody in the community the difference that this man has made in the lives of students, adults, businesspeople," Sumpter said. "He gives his all. He has the heart of a servant, and in my mind, is instrumental in making Cobb the great county that it is."

Winners are chosen through nominations, which are then reviewed by the area council's selection committee.

Sumpter, who was on the selection committee, said choosing Zangari was not a difficult decision.

"I think the consensus of the selection committee was you can't get better at serving the community and giving back of himself endless than Mark Zangari," he said.

He said the committee is not looking for a particular person when they look through the nominations, just that someone fits the criteria as a strong leader.

"We do like people to be community-minded, a good individual who makes an impact in the community who is recognized and regarded as a model citizen and a role model," he said.

Sumpter, who is also the director of community affairs for Cobb EMC, said all three winners — Mike Everhart for Kennesaw and Nicolle Williams for Acworth — are key examples of the strong Cobb community.

I applaud (all three winners)," he said. "I take my hat off to them. I think they will be great role models for the next generation and for people to look up to and say, 'Hey, he gave his all.'"